

To whom it may concern,

I am putting forth my disagreement regarding these bills:

H.B. No. 5361 (RAISED): I am against this bill because I pay both local taxes and a parking fee to use the beaches in my town. A portion of my taxes contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of our beaches. Anyone from outside my town has the right to use the beaches but they also share the obligation to pay their fair share of the upkeep (i.e. which should be proportionately assessed in an out of town parking fee). If I went to another town's beach I would expect to pay extra, as my fair contribution to their beach maintenance. I understand the situation of people who do not have access to beaches, but if they can't move to my town (and pay the price of a house & the associated taxes.... like I do) then they have the obligation to paying a higher parking fee so they/we all can enjoy a great beach experience. In this high cost, inflated economy we cannot continue to give everyone a 'free lunch' off the backs of the people who work hard and pay hard to maintain their quality of life and the quality of life in their town....this country needs to get back to a 'pay your fair share' mentality.

H.B. No. 5429 (RAISED): I am against this bill because it is a broad brush, quick fix to a problem that has festered and been ignored by lawmakers for decades.

- First of all, it is the town's 'chartered' right to decide the zoning restrictions without interference from the state government. The local town government knows best regarding what is needed to maintain a stable & consistent environment.
- Second, it is the failure of cities that is forcing this initiative into towns which are not designed to accommodate 'transportation density'. It is an ill conceived solution that will destroy the 'local' atmosphere of towns along with their ability to attract people to live there. The state should, instead, focus on improving the infrastructure of the cities (already transportation centers with greater availability/opportunity already existing for affordable housing) rather than try to 'kick the can down the road' into towns that are not setup to accommodate such an intrusion.
- Third, this proposal is ill timed given that improved internet speed & the COVID pandemic have introduced/created the long term strategy of 'working from home' that has been embraced by most companies. The lawmakers should leave Hartford once in a while and observe what is really going on....the train station parking lots in my town (once boasting a 5 years waiting period for parking spots) are now nearly half empty on any given weekday due to the fact that most employees work from home at least 3-5 days a week. Thus there is no great need to create 'transportation dense' zoning. Wake up Hartford, those days are gone forever!

The state lawmakers should be focusing on how to reduce taxes and raise salaries for the average worker so they can put food on the table and afford safe, secure housing (i.e. fix the cities).

Rest assured, I will be watching who votes for these ill conceived bills and will make my voice heard at the next election.

Regards,
Porter Sherman
Town of Fairfield, Connecticut 06824